

Express Mail No.: EV314843058US  
Filing Date: October 14, 2003

Our Case No. 742-234

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Davidson )  
 )  
International Application No.: ) Authorized Officer:  
PCT/US02/32633 ) James G. Smith  
 )  
International Filing Date: October 10, 2002 )  
 )  
For: Quick Release Mechanism for )  
Tools Such as Socket Wrenches )

**REPLY TO WRITTEN OPINION**

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1459

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Written Opinion mailed August 14, 2003, please substitute pages 9-12 for pages 9-12 as originally filed. The amendments being made will now be discussed.

Claim 1 was stated to be inoperative because it lacked the collar recited in dependent Claim 4. Applicant respectfully submits that the collar is not necessary for the recited structure to operate. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite the collar recited in dependent Claim 4. Applicant has further amended Claim 1 to recite a second ring extending around the adjacent portion between the locking element and the first end of the spring, the second ring transferring biasing forces from the spring to the locking element. Independent Claim 3 has been similarly amended to include both a collar and a

second ring. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 3 and their dependent claims are patentable over the art of record.

Also in this amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 2, 4, and 6 and has amended dependent Claims 5, 7-9, and 12 to change their dependency in view of the amendments made herein. Additionally, Applicant has added new Claims 18-19. New Claim 18 recites that the locking element comprises a first end shaped to engage a tool attachment, an intermediate portion, and a second end, and that the second end comprises a smaller diameter than a diameter of the intermediate portion. This is a different structure from that shown in Roberts et al.

Applicant submits that, with this amendment, all claims meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4).

Dated: October 14, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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